

Mr. PEPYS

To the Right Honourable Sir Francis
Child, Kt. Lord Mayor, and to
the Court of Aldermen, up-

on the Present State of

CHRIST-HOSPITAL.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

THAT nothing may rest uncommunicated to this Court, of what goes from me to that of Christ-Hospital; any more than, by your Allowance, I withhold from Them, ought of what I offer You: I here tender you a Copy of a Letter of mine thither, of the 25. of January.

The Contents of which bearing my Farewell to Them, as with all respect my purpose is in this to You; I cannot but recommend the Perusal thereof to this Court; as carrying with them such a Representation of the existing State of that House, in some fresh Particulars essential to the Well-being of it, as render it a thing little less than *hopeless* for me (by ordinary Means, at least) any longer to think of saving it: After finding my self put to above seven Months Labour, in compassing only its Treasurer's Signing that one Article of his Account, which you had before had from him *Unsigned*; and more than ten, in finding Passes only, through this Court thither, to my late Report of the State of the same.

And What it is that may be lookt-for from it, even now, it is *there*, with a Committee of few less than forty, and of them the Majority such, as will find little Work for them in it, but Self-Arraignment; I submit to your Lordship and this Court.

Especially, when you shall be pleas'd to reflect upon the present Circumstances of that House's Government; viz.

UNDER the Guidance of a **President**, equal indeed to the worthiest of his *Predecessors*, both in his general *Virtues*, and special *Manifescence* to that *Place*. But *One*, whose *Piety* has out-liv'd his *Strength* for being otherwise personally aidful to it, in any of the *Weightier Duties* of that *Charge*.

UNDER a **Treasurer**, who (besides what you have elsewhere before you concerning him) was also pleas'd to declare himself *unable both in Mind and Body*, for the longer *Execution* of his *Office*; and therefore made his formal *Resignation* of it, and had it as formally *accepted* of from him in **Court** there, above two years since.

UNDER the Direction of **Gentlemen** acting indeed as **Governours**, and to whom as *such* I have for more than 23. years had the *Honour* of reckoning my self a *Fellow-servant*; but are said to stand *reported* to You at this day by your *Learned Council*, not to be *such*, nor capable of being so, without (what they have never yet had) the *Confirmation* of this **Court**.

And lastly, **UNDER** an **Administration** also on the part of your *Lordship* and your *Honoured Brethren*, so *Gentle*; as to have suffer'd your *Orders* thither, even in *Points* the most important, to lye 7. *Months* together wholly neglected, and your *Authority* as openly renounc'd; without having yet thought fit to have ought done (within my Notice at least) in *Affertion* of it.

A **Reflection**, My Lord, as hard to be accounted for, as in it self **Grievous**.

Forasmuch as, If after so uninterrupted a *Jurisdiction*, as has been always exercis'd by this **Court**, and with a *Submission* as constantly paid thereto from these **Hospitals**; If after so long a *Succession* of *Gifts* and *Bequests* to them, and those to great *Values*, in reliance upon the *Credit* and *Authority* of this **Court** alone for their *Security*; If after so establish'd a *Veneration* acquir'd to it, as *Guardians* of these **Foundations**, and particularly as the *Moral Fathers* of the **Orphans** of this *House*, when in your *Easter* and other *Solemnities*, They, as *Tour Children*, bear no small part in the *Honour* of your *Processions*; And lastly, If after what in my particular I have been endeavouring herein for *Tour Service*, and for the *Service* of the *Poor*; this **Court** shall appear to have been all this while thus credited and thus obey'd, without *Authority* at this day, under the greatest of their *Miscarriages*, to visit and reform Them; for so also your *Learned Council* are said to have determin'd. What must be thought of this mistake? And particularly,

How will the *Pious Credulity* of our **Princely Founders** and *past Benefactors* be to be lamented; and what more to be either hop'd or wish'd for of Them, on these *Terms*, in time to come? What must the *Apprehensions* now be of Those, whose *Subsistence* rests upon the *Authority* only of this **Court**, for the *Payments* that

that House stands charg'd with to their Use, out of the largest Benevolences of their Charitable Ancestors?

Or Theirs; whose Debts of more modern Date, lye unpaid (many Thousand Pounds deep) by that Hospital at Interest, upon no other Security?

What is there to be rely'd on of Fruit from the *Respectations* saids to be now on foot there, or those lying before your Lordship and this Court, from my Report?

Or in a Word; What to be hop'd-for either of Satisfaction for so much of our Poor's Stock and Benefactors's Bounties as has already miscarry'd; or of better Provision in time to come, for securing the Remainder?

What, I say my Lord, must the Result of all this be, and how to be answer'd-for; should this Court be so unhappy, as knowingly to permit such a Foundation and its Revenue to rest one day longer, in Hands no otherwise qualify'd-for, nor better intitled to the Trust of it? While by a Resolution of its own, not yet 16. Months old, you have been pleas'd to declare your selves standing Governours of the same, and (as such) required your being (as anciently) summon'd to every of its Courts, and accordingly have ever since been so, and now are: To the entitling Your selves (I fear) to a nearer Concernment in the Fate of it, than may have been yet sufficiently reflected on; and possibly, to an Accountableness with Them, for the good or bad Events of their Managements there.

In Consideration I am the more willingly your present Remembrancer in, from the fresh Endeavours said to be now on foot there, for resuming their Old Liberty of taking-in Children, while unprovided of a Bit of Bread for those they now have, otherwise than by running into new Debt, or length'ning their Score of Interest upon the Old; Besides sacrificing the Innocence of so many fresh Infants, to the Dissoluteness of Manners now reigning, among those they are to be there mixed-with. The Evil of whole Contagion, and Pressure of which Debt, I take to be no otherwise removable, than by a total Stop to be for some time put, to the Occasions of Both.

An Expedient, that I well know will at the first hearing be thought as Impracticable, as in other Respects Extraordinary.

But the Case is Extraordinary too; and consequently, to restrain its Remedy to Ordinary Methods only, is little other, than to leave it Remedy-less. Which I cannot think any Gentleman, who hath the Honour and Trust of a Governour there, will contentedly sit-down with, while furnish'd with any thing to offer towards the Saving it, as (for want of better) I do this: And yet with an Opinion so far from deeming it Impracticable, as to reckon it a Work neither of Length nor Difficulty; if, in Atonement for that Misconduct of ours, by which, from the Prosperity this House was in while under the Care but of 16. Governours with 500. Children, it has been brought into the Condition it now lies with 400. Governours (little more or less) and

but 400 **Children**; if (I say) in *Atonement* for that *Miscanduct*, we would improve the Opportunity of this *nearness* in our *Numbers*, to the ending the *Debt* at once of the *Whole*, by every *Governour's* taking to himself *Due*: Thereby leaving the *Income* of it entirely free to the *Discharge* of its *Debts*, doing Right to its *Founders* and *Benefactors*, and that being done, to the setting-out *afresh*, with a *Revenue clear'd*, its *Discipline reform'd*, and *Provision* made for its future better *Embark* through the *Whole*. And this I lay with all *Deference* before your *Lordship* and this *Court*, as that without which, or some other *Equivalents*, I must avow my *Despair* of ever seeing this unhappy *Case* in the *State* it ought to be; and therefore would be glad, with your *Concurrence* and the *Concurrence* of the *Gentlemen* of that *Body*, to be doing my part, either in this or any other *Effectual Proposition*, towards it.

I am well aware, *My Lord*, of the *Censure* this *Fervor* of mine may expose me to, as *One* overpressing in a *Cause*, wherein *Others* neither less *interested* nor less *discerning* than my *self*, are pleas'd to shew so little of the *Dissatisfaction* I do; and without any *surprise* on my side at it, as well remembering how little different my own *Sentiments* were of it, while my *Knowledge* thereof (like *theirs*) had no other *Direction*, than the *Information* of *Others*. Whereas no sooner was I engaged in the closer and more deliberate *Enquiries* apply'd thereto of my own, but that *Indifference* of mine was awaken'd to the Degree of *Concernment* I now profess; and which, on like *Conviction*, would be no less in any other, whose *morals* (like mine) know no middle, in matters of *Trust* at least, between scrupulously *Just*, and downright the contrary. Or to speak more plainly; between mixing my own *Hand* in the *Ruin* of this Religious *House*, and sitting *silently* within *View* of its being brought about, by the *Vanitie*, *Supineness*, *Prodigality*, or *Self-interest* of *Others*.

Indulge me therefore, *My Lord*, the *Liberty* of this *One* only closing *Note* to Your *Lordship* upon this *Subject*. Namely, That as the *Direction* of the *Hospitals*, has in all times hitherto been undeniably *exercis'd* by your *Honourable Predecessors*, in this *Place*; and as uninterruptedly *submitted to*. So is it no less evident, that however an *Occasion* has now (after *sevenscore years Practice*) been administred to the *questioning* it; Your said *Predecessors*, (the *Lord Mayor*, *Commonalty*, and *Citizens* of *London*) upon *Covenants* first by Them entered into with *H. Edward VI.* for the good *Government* of Them, were by his special *Charter of Incorporation* as *Governours* thereof, furnished with all the *Powers* requisite to the enabling them to *make good* those *Covenants*.

In consideration of which, and in *Duty* to Your *Lordship*, to the *City*, to this *Court*, and to the *Poor*, I cannot (as a *Servant* to all) but most earnestly pray; that this *Matter* may without delay, be laid for *Remedy* before that *Body Corporate*, where-ever it now rests: in order to the preventing, if possible, any unnecessary recourse to *Methods Extraordinary*, for what should be thought attainable by *Ordinary*. Especially

cially while, Sitting a Parliament, with so many of your own Numbers, and of the Hospital's, members therein, and with a Bill already (I take it) before Them, relating to **Charitable Uses**; no reasonable Supplement ought to be doubted from it, to that **Ordinary Power**: If any such can be judg'd wanting, after so illustrious a Proof, as I have sometime since given you, of the *Issue* of his Lordship, the **respected Lord Chancellor**, Proceeding in the late Memorable Case of **St. Batharines**: A Proceeding I cannot but remind you of; as well as of the *Check* put but few years before at the **Great Seal**, to a *Visitation* then offered-at, in a Method less regular, in the Case of **St. Thomas's**.

To conclude, My Lord, this *Calamity* of ours in our **Hospital-concernment** is a **Spot** not to be cover'd in our **Feasts of Charity**, once the **Glory** of this **City**: And a **Spot** not at the *worst* neither, but daily spreading, and daily deepening too, through every part of it. Witness its *Appearance* (where least to have been lookt-for) in the very last act of our **Treasurer's** signing this *Account*; as giving you therein, his own *Hand* in Evidence against the *Truth* of what you had had before from him *Unsign'd*; and in which, as in all other its former Editions, to my self, to the **Hospital**, and from thence to the **Lords of the Treasury**, there had been suppress'd in the single Article of **Sea Wages**, a Sum no less than 1400 *l.* besides others of greater Moment yet behind. And this too, notwithstanding repeated *Cautions* to them concerning it; and particularly in my last, whereof this brings you a Copy. And since which (as fresh at it is) they have nevertheless adventur'd to ask, and actually received more than 700 *l.* upon that very Head on which the **Treasurer** has so lately own'd his having twice that Sum of the **King's** in his *Hand*, yet to be accounted-for.

Be pleas'd therefore to think of some speedy *Prevention* to the Growth of this our *Reproach*. And towards it, permit me only to say; That as uneasy as the *Undertaking* may appear to others; I see no Cause of apprehending any thing of more difficulty needful towards it (whether as to the due animadverting upon what is past, or better providing for what is to come) than a *Right Choice* of a very few **Hands** to be assign'd thereto, supported with an *Authority* suited to the *work*, and **Powers** requisite to the rendring their *Labours* and *Determinations* therein **Effectual**.

Which being adjusted, and that only; I should with great assurance of success, both readily and gladly pay the utmost of my *personal Service* to the **Gentlemen** so commission'd; as well in detecting the *Errors* of my own *Calculations* (and which for the **poor's** sake I could wish more, than I dare yet hope them to be) as suggesting and applying adequate *Remedies*, to what those **Gentlemen** in their happier *Enquiries* may find truly needing the same.

But if after all (which God avert) it should be our *Infelicity*, even with the aid of that **Charter**, not to have wherewith of our own to help our selves herein. The Cause nevertheless is too sacred, both in it self, and as it is the **King's**, to be permitted to sink, while within
the

the support I have so often mention'd, of his Own Sovereign Will-
tation; And more particularly in what relates to Himself within our
Care in the Mathematical Foundation; by translating it, from
the Hand in which it now languishes, to those he is pleased to intrust
with that of his Own later Edition, to the same Royal Purpose in the
Advancement of Navigation, within his Own Palace and Inspection
as Spent.

I am in most respectful manner,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your ever most faithful and obedient Servant,

S. Pepys.